

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:  
maintaining a software license bank for a customer, software licenses stored in the software license bank not being associated with specific machines; and  
accessing a web application to allow a user to automatically obtain a software license for a specific machine from the software license bank.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the software licenses available from the software license bank depend on a predetermined contract.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the software license bank stores predetermined dollar amount of licenses.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined CPU count of software licenses.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the software license bank contains an unlimited number of licenses for some period of time.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined user count of software licenses.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the web application maintains digital records of software licenses, the digital records indicating rights associated with the software licenses.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein web application can be used to adjust the rights associated with the software license.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the web application is used to provide license keys for the software.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the web application uses role based security.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the web application stores configuration information for the computers running the licensed software.
12. A license management system comprising:
  - a memory adapted to store a software license bank for a customer, software licenses stored in the software license bank not being associated with specific machines; and
  - a processor adapted to provide a web application to allow a user to automatically obtain a software license for a specific machine from the software license bank.
13. The license management system of claim 12, wherein the software licenses available from the software license bank depend on a predetermined contract.
14. The license management system of claim 12, wherein the software license bank stores predetermined dollar amount of licenses.
15. The license management system of claim 12, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined CPU count of software licenses.
16. The license management system of claim 12, wherein the software license bank contains an unlimited number of licenses for some period of time.
17. The license management system of claim 12, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined user count of software licenses.

18. The license management system of claim 12, wherein the web application maintains digital records of software licenses, the digital records indicating rights associated with the software licenses.
19. The license management system of claim 12, wherein web application can be used to adjust the rights associated with the software license
20. The license management system of claim 12, wherein the web application is used to provide license keys for the software.
21. The license management system of claim 12, wherein the web application uses role based security.
22. The license management system of claim 12, wherein the web application stores configuration information for the computers running the licensed software.
23. A computer readable media comprising software to instruct a computer to do the steps of:  
maintaining a software license bank for a customer, software licenses stored in the software license bank not being associated with specific machines; and  
in response to a user accessing a web application, allowing the user to automatically obtain a software license for a specific machine from the software license bank.
24. The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the software licenses available from the software license bank depend on a predetermined contract.
25. The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the software license bank stores predetermined dollar amount of licenses.
26. The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined CPU count of software licenses.

27. The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the software license bank contains an unlimited number of licenses for some period of time.
28. The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the software license bank stores a predetermined user count of software licenses.
29. The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the web application maintains digital records of software licenses, the digital records indicating rights associated with the software licenses.
30. The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein web application can be used to adjust the rights associated with the software license
31. The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the web application is used to provide license keys for the software.
32. The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the web application uses role based security.
33. The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the web application stores configuration information for the computers running the licensed software.